

Appl. No. 10/048,187
Amdt. Dated January 8, 2004
Reply to office Action of Nov. 5, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, line 1 please insert the following paragraph:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1 please replace the paragraph entitled "CROSS
REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of GERMAN
Application No. 199 41 306.1 filed August 31, 1999. Applicant
also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. ~~§120~~ §365 of PCT/DE00/02808
filed on August 16, 2000. The international application under
PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

On page 1, line 2, please replace the paragraph entitled
"Description" with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Description BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1, line 3, please insert the following paragraph:

--Field of the Invention--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The invention relates to a roller chain for continuously

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guiding and/or stretching the width of a web of textile material on a machine stretching a web of textile material (the so-called tenter). The roller chain comprises inside and outside members which are connected via chain joints in a successively alternating manner,--

On page 2, line 6, please insert the following paragraph:

--Prior Art

On page 5, line 13, please insert the following paragraph:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replaced the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--For the roller chain specified above, the solution according to the invention consists in that the sealing ring is substantially made of plastic and unrotatably coupled with the adjacent inner tab; that the spacer in the form of individual metallic inserts, which are approximately equally distributed over the bolt in the circumferential direction, is integrated in the sealing ring; that each insert extends approximately axially through the sealing ring, whereby the overall cross section of all inserts measured in the plane of the ring is small as

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- compared to the surface area of the ring; and that the surface of the sealing ring facing the ball bearing comprises at least one lubrication ~~roove~~ groove that connects the lubrication channel of the bolt and a lubrication hole of the sleeve with the interior of the ball bearing as a passage for the lubricant, with the lubrication hole of the sleeve being brought to coincide with the lubrication channel of the bolt. Improvements and other embodiments of the invention are ~~specified in the dependent~~ claims also disclosed.

On page 8, line 4, please insert the following paragraph:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

On page 8, line 12, please insert the following paragraph:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please replaced the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--FIG. 1 shows a schematic representation of a part of a roller chain with a section extending perpendicular to the axis of the running roller or longitudinal axis 1 of a bolt 2. The roller chain as a whole is comprised of the inner member denoted by 3 and the outer member denoted by 4. Every inside member 3 is

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comprised of the two inner tabs 5 as well as the two sleeves 6 connecting the tabs 5 with each other. Each outer member ~~5~~ 4 is comprised of the two outer tabs 7 as well as the two bolts 2 connecting the outer tabs 7 with each other. Each of the sleeves 6 is coaxially supported on the associated bolt 2 in a rotatable manner. The required relative rotatability of the bolts 2 and the sleeve 6 is assured, for example by the interconnected coaxial sliding bush 8, which is made of, for example polytetrafluoroethene fabric. A coaxial running roller 9 is supported in a rotating manner on the outside of the sleeve 6 in a ball bearing 10, which has to be lubricated from the outside. The free ends 7a of the outer tabs 7 extend distinctly beyond the bolts 2 and partly enclose between themselves the area of the inner member 3, in which provision is made according to EP 0 400 375 (see above) for a re-lubrication channel leading to the ball bearing 10.--

Please replaced the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to the invention, the path taken by the lubricant starts in the axial lubrication channel 18 and leads via the radial branch 19 and the holes 20 and 21 through a lubrication groove 22 (which is a lubrication channel as well) of

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the sealing ring 15, and into the interior 13 of the ball bearing. The sealing ring ~~13~~ 15 is explained in greater detail with the help of FIGS. 2 and 3. In the exemplified embodiment, said sealing ring contains a ring area 23 that is axially disposed in front of or above the longitudinal edge of the inner ring 11 and the four through-extending bores 24, which each contain a ball 25, whereby the ball diameter has to be at least equal to the thickness of the ring area 23 measured in the axial direction. The bores 24 have to be at least approximately equally distributed in the circumferential direction of the bolt. Therefore, when the inner tabs ~~3~~ 5 with their bores 25 26 are pressed onto the sleeves 6 and riveted with force to the ball bearing 10, said force is directly transmitted via the balls 25 to the inner ring 11 of the ball bearing, and the sealing ring 15 is not or not notably stressed in this process. Therefore, as preferred within the scope of the invention, the sealing ring 15 may consist of a plastic suited as a sealant that per se could not absorb the forces occurring in the course of the pressing and riveting process.--

Please replace the Abstract with the Abstract attached as Attachment A.